

Monday 17th February 2020

Issue 2

# LINK LETTER



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*Michael Kent - PRINCIPAL*

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the linkletter.

I hope you are all settling back into the routines of school life as smoothly as your children seem to be. All the students have made a wonderful start to the year. As we come to the end of week 3, things are certainly happening in and around our school.

Our year 3-6 students have commenced their inter and intra school sports competitions, Year 3-6 swimming sports, instrumental music classes are commencing, year 3-6 intensive swimming program are commencing shortly, our wonderful specialist learning programs have also commenced with loads of fun and learning. Our students have the opportunity of experiencing great extra curricular lessons in health and physical education, science, art and languages.

Happy Valentine's Day for earlier in the week, hopefully this provided an opportunity to 'share the love!'

A special thank-you to the parents who have already been helping in and around the school. We greatly appreciate the support and our students will benefit from your help and commitment. A reminder that if you are available to help we would really love to have you here. Just contact the office to complete our Code of Conduct document and provide a copy of your working with children card.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

**WED 19TH FEB**  
NO PREPS TODAY

**GRADE 5/6 INTENSIVE SWIMMING  
PROGRAM SESSION 1**

**THURS 20TH**  
**WATSONIA DISTRICT SWIMMING  
CARNIVAL @ WATERMARC**

**FRI 21ST FEB**  
ISS - VS ST MARY'S (AWAY)

**FRI 21ST FEB**  
FAMILY FUN NIGHT

**5.30 - 6PM - PREP - 2 STUDENTS  
PARENT INFORMATION SESSION**

**6 - 6.30 PM - 3 - 6 STUDENTS  
PARENT INFORMATION SESSION**

**6:30-8PM - FAMILY FUN**

**FRI 21ST FEB**  
ISS - VS GREENSBOROUGH (HOME)

**SUN 23RD FEB**

**WED 26TH FEB**  
NO PREPS TODAY

**GRADE 5/6 INTENSIVE SWIMMING  
PROGRAM SESSION 2**

**FRI 28TH FEB**  
ISS WHPS VS GREENSBOROUGH HOME  
GAME

### MARCH

**MON 2ND MARCH**  
**GRADE 3/4 INTENSIVE SWIMMING  
PROGRAM SESSION 1**

**WED 4TH MARCH**  
**BANYULE DIVISION SWIMMING CARNIVAL  
@ NORTHCOTE SWIMMING POOLS**

**GRADE 5/6 INTENSIVE SWIMMING  
PROGRAM SESSION 3**

**FRI 6TH MARCH**  
CURRICULUM DAY

**MON 9TH MARCH**  
LABOUR DAY

**THE GREAT WHPS  
TWILIGHT FETE  
SAT 14TH MARCH  
2 - 8PM**

### 2020 TERM DATES

**TERM 1**  
**30TH JANUARY - FRIDAY 27TH MARCH**

**TERM 2**  
**14TH APRIL - 26TH JUNE**

**TERM 3**  
**13TH JULY - 18TH SEPTEMBER**

**TERM 4**  
**5TH OCTOBER - 18TH DECEMBER**

### **Prep Welcome Night**

Thank-you to the Prep parents whom attended the welcome night last week. It was great to get to know some of the parents and also a wonderful opportunity for parents to meet some new friends in the Prep group. At WHPS we place great value on the relationships that we form and sharing some social time together is a big part of this relationship development.

### **Open Night/Fun Night**

A reminder of this Open Night / Fun Night this Friday 21st February 5.30-8pm.

Information evening – all classes open for visitation.

**5.30pm all Prep-2** classes will be sharing information about the year.

**6pm all year 3-6** classes will be sharing information about the year.

An information booklet will also be provided on the night. Please make the time to come along to this night as it will lay the foundation for a transparent and positive year ahead for your child.

**6.30pm-8pm** families are invited to share in some social time with music, jumping castles and BBQ.

You may choose to bring your own food and drinks and enjoy the social side of school.

Don't forget to visit the specialist classrooms as well!!

### **Curriculum Day – Friday March 6th**

Please be reminded of our first curriculum day (student free day) for the year. This will be held on Friday March 6th. Their Care will be offering a service on this day. If you would like Out of Hours School Care on this day, please register online.

Also, please note that the school will not be open on Monday 9th March due to the Labour Day public holiday.

### **Fete – Saturday 14th March**

This week we will be sending home some more information about our upcoming school fete. Each class has been allocated a stall to support. You will receive a letter that explains the stall and also ways that you can help, support, donate and attend on the day. We really need our wonderful community to help us in making this a memorable event for all involved.

Thank-you to the fantastic fete committee who have been working hard behind the scenes for the past year to make sure all aspects of the fete are duly considered. With the fete fast approaching NOW is the time that we need everyone to come on board and do their little bit to help!!

### **Bushfire donations**

Thanks to our School captains, Ava and Kara who initiated and planned our Green and Gold out of uniform day last week. The funds raised by everyone's gold coin donations, (and donations made in the donations box at the office,) will be collated this week and sent to the nominated charity that helps the injured animals whom were so badly affected by the recent fires. We are still taking donations throughout this week but the current tally is at \$510!!

### **Farewell Mrs. Nestor**

We have, (sadly for us,) farewelled Lainie Nestor as she takes maternity leave. This is a very exciting time for her and husband Matthew as they await the arrival of their first child. We wish them all the very best of health and happiness through this exciting time. I would like to thanks Lainie on all that she has done for our school and we hope to see her back in some capacity in the future.

## Watsonia Heights School Council

### Are you interested in joining our School Council?

This is a great way to get involved in the school and leading the way in our policy development and school management. An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Watsonia Heights Primary School.

**Nomination forms can be obtained from the Principal/Office and must be lodged by 4pm on Friday 28th February, 2020.**

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

Membership Category	Term of Office	Number of Positions
Parent member	From the date after the declaration of the poll in 2020 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the 2022.	5
DEECD employee member	From the date after the declaration of the poll in 2020 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the 2022.	2

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted. Should the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies a ballot will be conducted.

**If you are interested or require further information (including nomination forms) please contact the Principal.**

### Assessment and Reporting

At WHPS we strongly value the relationship between home and school and how we can best support each child in the learning journey. Part of this support is to ensure that parents are kept well informed of the learning progress that children are making. This involves reporting, student led conferences, parent teacher interviews, etc.

Below is the reporting structure and timeline for the year. I hope you will find this adequate and comprehensive in obtaining an ongoing understanding of your child's progress and individualized learning program throughout the year. If you have any feedback, I would appreciate your insights.

Term 1	Focus	Reporting focus
Week 1		Touch base parent reflection forms
Week 4	Open evening	<b>Family Fun Night</b> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Feb - 5.30-8pm School open 5.30-6.30pm (class info session P-2 @ 5.30pm; 3-6 @ 6pm)
Week 9	Student Led conferences –	Goal setting, setting of Smart goals. March 26 <sup>th</sup> Student, staff and parent input into goals and future direction
<b>Term 2</b>		
Week 3	Parent teacher Interviews	Progress reports between parents and teachers. Students are not required for these meetings 28 <sup>th</sup> / 29 <sup>th</sup> April
Week 11	Term 2 Reports	Reflects student performance over the semester
<b>Term 3</b>		
Week 2	Student Led Conferences	Reflect on learning goals showing progress of individual learning goals. Set new goals for semester 2. 23 <sup>rd</sup> July
<b>Term 4</b>		
Week 11	Term 4 Reports	Reflects semester 2 performance and an indication of progress made across the academic school year.

Please note that parents are able to request further information at any stage throughout the year. This may be through meetings, emails or phone conversation. I ask that parents are mindful of teacher workload when requesting information and finding a mutually suitable meeting time is requested.

### **Building and Grounds**

Over the holiday break we have invested in some required and some improvement additions to our school. These include:

- Development of 2 new classroom spaces
- Soft fall on playgrounds
- Whiteboards and pinboards around the school
- Service and upgraded the operating system for our computers
- Added further infrastructure to our wireless network and server output
- Purchase of more ipads and set up for school use
- Purchased new TV's for classroom digital display, cabling, wireless network access, display software to support our 1:1 program
- Soms painting of classroom spaces
- Removal of asbestos in art room building
- Painting of canteen building
- Top up sand for designated areas
- Shadesail on new playground
- Activity and caricature painting of concrete and asphalt



### **Child Safe Standards**

At WHPS we are committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students. As a part of this the school and all it's members are responsible for working together to ensure this wellbeing for all students.

In the event that you suspect that a student is in risk of potential harm or if you suspect that some kind of abuse is occurring, I ask that you take the appropriate steps to ensure this is reported. Of course, myself and Tony Ryan are available at any time to listen to any concerns. Additionally I refer you to the documentation on our website that focused on the Child Safe standards. Our website contains further detail, information and processes (including appropriate contact) to follow if you have any concerns about the wellbeing of a student or community member.

### **Camps Sports and Excursions Fund - CSEF**

Eligible families are welcomed to apply for funding support supplied from the government. A payment of \$125 per primary school child is availed to those eligible parents/guardians. Please see the attachment for further details.

### **School Injuries and Insurance**

Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance or health insurance fund, you may also be able to claim transport or other expenses from the fund. The Department of Education and Training does not hold accident insurance for school students.

#### **Is other insurance cover available?**

**Yes.**

Parents are able to take out further personal insurance cover by negotiation with differing providers.

Enjoy the week ahead!

Warm  
regards,

Michael



# ACROSS THE AP'S DESK...

**TONY RYAN - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**

Hello everyone, and a first welcome back via the newsletter from me to another year at WHPS. We have had a very busy but enjoyable start to the year. It's been great to catch up with our students and their families and hear about all the great adventures they had over the holiday period. It has also been exciting to welcome our new preps and other families into our community as well as some new teaching staff to the school. Our Prep teachers have shared how impressed they have been with how their classes have settled in. They have taken to school like ducks to water! The vibe around the school has been really great and I think all our students deserve a lot of credit for arriving back at school with such a positive mindset.

Our classes have been investing the time to get to know each other and to establish positive learning environments for their classrooms and exploring how they can best operate as a team. With new class groups the start of the year can be a great time to establish some new friendships and renew old ones. I mentioned above the credit our students deserve for their positive attitude to school, in doing so I should also acknowledge lots of hard work from our staff to set a positive environment up at the start of the year. We regularly had teachers at school during the holidays setting up their classrooms, watering gardens or to meet up with team members to plan the start of the year.

The school was a busy place during January and there was also a variety of works being carried out. Some of the more visible changes that you may have noticed were the installation of our new shade sail posts and sails over the new playground in the upper school. This is a great addition to the school and provides a terrific sun smart play space for our students. You may have also noticed that some areas of the school have undergone some minor renovations and paint work around the school has been given a freshen up. This includes some classroom spaces as well as artwork on asphalt areas and a new mural near the canteen area. We continue to look for opportunities to make the school a vibrant and appealing learning environment. We have also enjoyed some fantastic parent support in working on a few beautification projects. Our thanks go out to Louise Alford for taking on some painting work for us and also to Mick Denton and Pat Collins for their assistance with some construction works.



# ACROSS THE AP'S DESK...

TONY RYAN - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

As always we have launched into a variety of learning opportunities and events. It was nice to be able to bring the community together last Friday for our first assembly. Mr Kent often starts the year with an all singing, all dancing performance for the community but this year decided to outsource this responsibility to a special guest performer who put on an entertaining and interactive drumming performance for our community. He was visiting the school to promote the opportunity for our students to be involved in a drumming performance at the Arty Farty Festival conducted by Banyule City Council.

School sporting activities are another area that has had a fast start to the year. In addition to interschool sports starting last week our year 3-6 students participated in our school swimming trials last Thursday. Our school always promotes inclusion and giving things a go, so it was great to see so many students join in on the day and swim at least one event. Our thanks go out to Miss Macelari for her coordination of the event as well as our staff and many parent helpers that jumped in and helped with timing lanes on the day. The results of these trials have been used to create our school team that will compete at the District Swimming Carnival next Thursday at Watermarc. We wish all our students the best for their events. Information has also been sent out with regards to the intensive swimming program for students in years 3-6 that is occurring over the coming weeks. Please ensure all permissions, payment and swimming information is completed and returned to school as soon as possible to ensure your child's involvement in the program. Swimming competently is an important life skill in Australia and the intensive swimming program is a fantastic way to promote these skills in a fun environment.



On Wednesday night we also held the Prep Welcome Night for our prep parents and carers. It was a great opportunity to meet many new members of our community and to establish some new social connections. We thank all those whom attended and hope that you found then evening enjoyable.



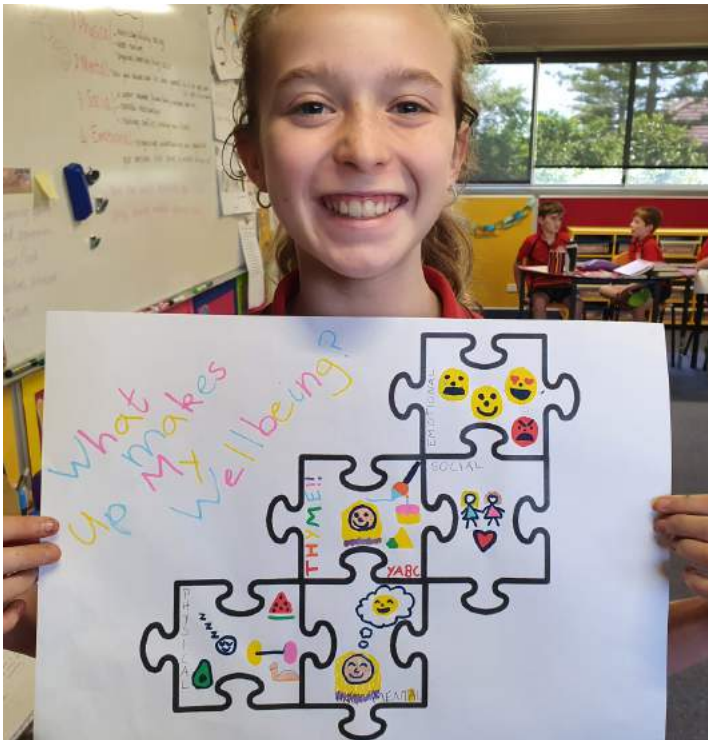
You may remember from last year that I had included a question each week to promote some school or wellbeing discussion around the dinner table. Our plan this year is to link my table talk section to the wellbeing topics that our students explore in their student diaries. This week's topic of discussion around the dinner table is, **"What does respectful mean and who are 10 people you share respectful relationships with?"**

Have a great weekend everyone,  
Tony.

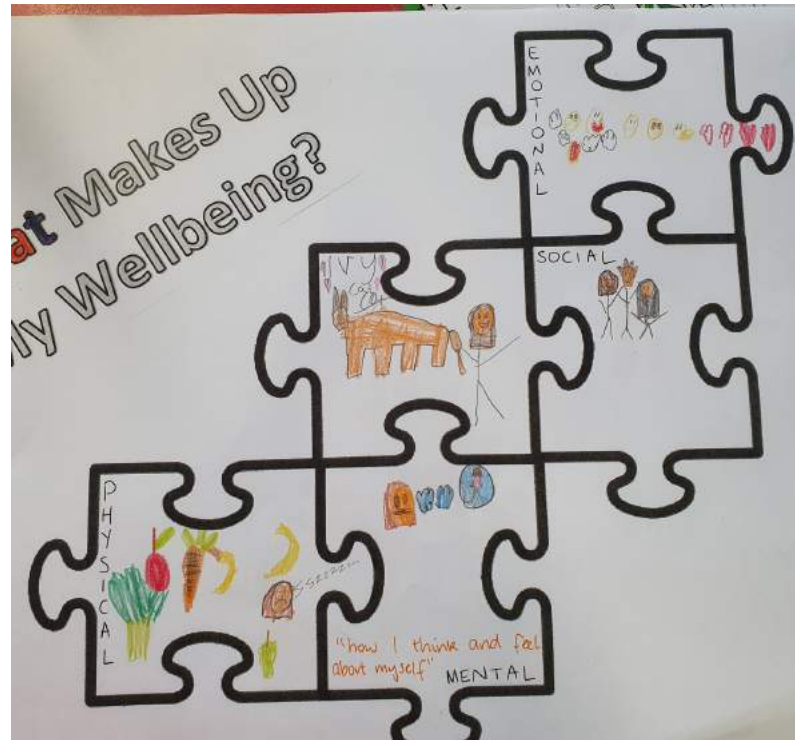


# Wellbeing In Week 2

As part of our Wellbeing lesson last week, we unpacked what the word 'wellbeing' means, and how it looks and feels different for everyone. Each class learnt about the 4 main elements that make up our wellbeing: physical, social, emotional and mental. Using a puzzle piece analogy, we discussed how each component (or puzzle piece) has to come together for our wellbeing to be complete. If one piece of our puzzle is missing or broken, our puzzle feels incomplete, meaning we can't function to the best of our ability each day. I was lucky enough to teach this lesson in a number of classrooms across the school last week, and I was blown away by some of the discussions the students had in relation to their own wellbeing. They confidently displayed their understanding that each puzzle piece is equally important and how they have to work together. Have a look at some of the amazing puzzles below!



**Thyme, Grade 5/6**



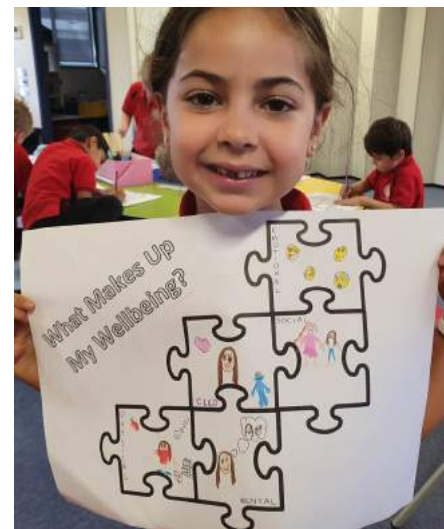
**Ivy, Grade 1**



**Ellen, Grade 5/6**

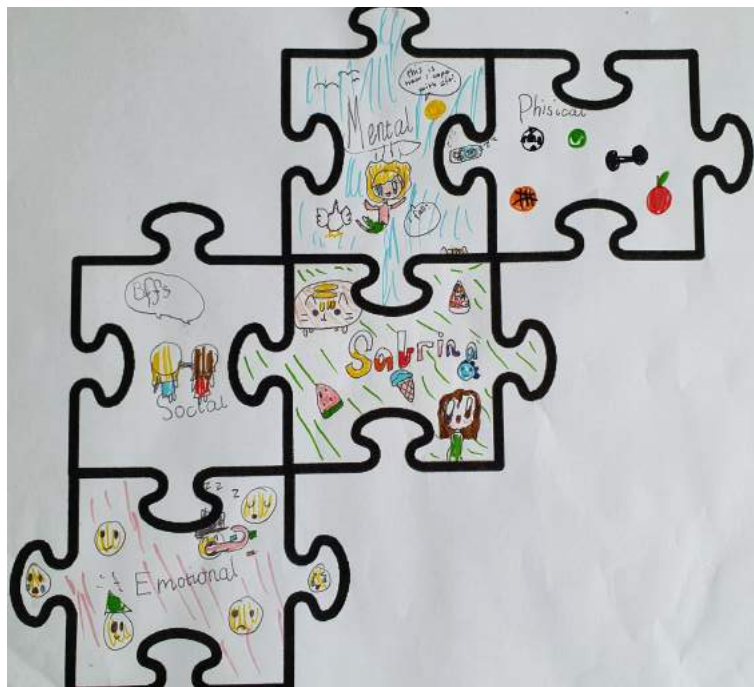


**William, Grade 1**



**Cleo, Grade 1**

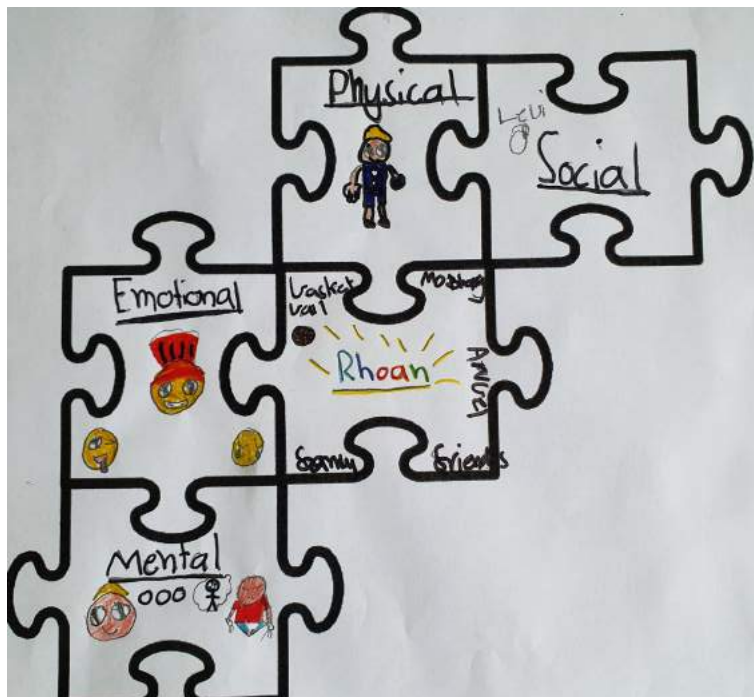




Sabrina, Grade 3/4



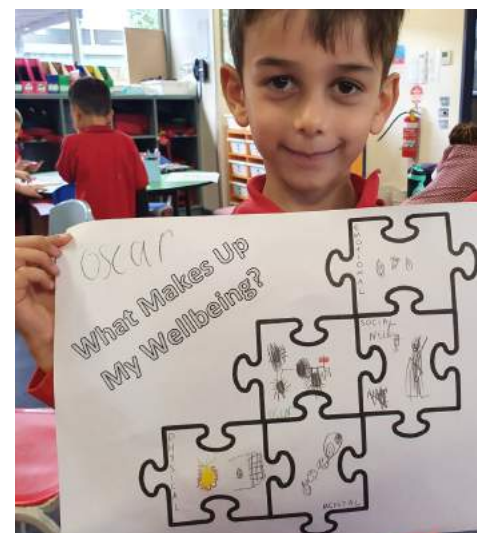
Amelia, Grade 5/6



Rhoan, Grade 3/4



Indie,  
Grade 1



Zac,  
Grade 5/6

Oscar,  
Grade 1





# News from the 5/6 Team

Hello everyone and greetings from the 5/6 Team. We have had a very smooth and exciting start to the year and all grades have settled in really well. Our Inquiry unit this term is Learning to Learn, and our focus is on identifying and developing the strengths of each student so that they can become successful leaders.

We have used our Writer's Notebooks to develop seeds for writing and have been focussing on detailed language and punctuation. In Reading, students have driven the setting up of our class libraries so we have a range of genres and good fit books and have started our class novel about inspiring young children who have changed the world. Our Maths focus has been on Place Value, developing our number fluency and using decimals and concrete materials to model numbers. Wellbeing is a core focus in every classroom and we have implemented a range of mindfulness strategies including flow activities, meditation, smiling minds and exploring our school values in depth.

Interschool Sport is well under way and we have intensive swimming starting this week, which is every Wednesday afternoon for the rest of Term 1. It has already been such a busy term with so many more great things to come! We hope to see many of you this Friday at our open night!

Cheers, The 5/6 Team - Louise Middleton, Juliana Munforte, Amy Murray and Phil Hannon



Students enjoying some rich learning opportunities outside, using dice to generate random numbers and plotting numbers on number lines with chalk



# Students of the Week

## Week 2 Term 1







## Only 27 Days until our GREAT Fete!!!

With only 27 days to go until our 2020 Twilight Fete, it will be here before we know it!

Planning is really stepping up and our Fete Committee are working overtime to make sure it is a great event for both our school and the wider community. But to make it the best it can be we please need your help to bring it all together!

We have now allocated our 2020 grades to their fete stall and we are seeking parent representatives to help us coordinate the final months of preparations. We have had parents come forward and put their hand up to coordinate their grades stall however; we still have some vacancies which we would love to fill. Closer to the date we will put the call out for volunteers to assist on the day and sign up for time slots via our Try Booking page. Please save the date and it would be wonderful if you can spare an hour or 2 on **Saturday 14th March, from 2 - 8pm** to help make our Fete AMAZING!

**Please find the class stalls listed below and please email us on [communitylinks.whps@gmail.com](mailto:communitylinks.whps@gmail.com) if you would like to assist with your child's class stall.**

Trash & Treasure - **Prep M & Prep G** - Stall Coordinators = **Jess M and Kathryne C**  
Fairy Floss & Popcorn - **Prep N & Prep R** - Stall Coordinators = **Alexis J**  
Indian Cuisine - **1R** - Stall Coordinator = **Miti J**  
Side Show Alley - **1D & 1M** - Stall Coordinator = **Sarah E**  
Plants Stall - **2M** - Stall Coordinator = **Position available**  
Veggie Bar & Salad - **2T & 2ET** - Stall Coordinators = **Kate B and Emily A**  
Face Paint - **3/4D** - Stall Coordinator = **Position available**  
Cake Stall & High Tea Room – **5/6J & 3/4M** - Stall Coordinators = **Donna L & Michelle M**  
Canteen - **5/6L 3/4G** - Stall Coordinator = **Kate F**  
BBQ - **3/4A & 3/4K** - Stall Coordinator = **Louise A**  
Bar – **5/6A & Mixed WHPS Community Members with RSA** - Stall Coordinator = **Lisa C**  
Silent Disco - **5/6H** - Stall Coordinator = **Phil H**  
Beauty & Boss Stall - **WHPS Past Students** - Stall Coordinator = **Cassidy P & Elisha W**  
Craft Stall – **Their Care** - Stall Coordinator = **Lauren**

## Next Fete Committee Meeting - Sun 23rd February 2020 from 3pm

Would you like to be part our **Fete Committee** and help us make the day amazing!

Please join us on **Sunday 23rd of February 2020 in the WHPS Library from 3pm** and we appreciate (in advance) anything you can do to help.

# WHPS Proudly Support

## BIG GROUP HUG

As mentioned at assembly today by our Wellbeing captains, WHPS are proud to support the community organisation Big Group Hug. Big Group Hug is run by volunteers who dedicate their time to ensure that families doing it tough within our community have the essential items they need for their children. As a registered school partnership with Big Group Hug, we are asking for any WHPS families in a position to help to please donate to the "PJs, Socks, Singlets & Jocks Make For Happy Tots" campaign. **Between Friday 14th Feb - Monday 23rd March, we would love to be able to collect as many donations as possible.** We kindly ask that any donations made are brand new pajamas, socks, singlets or underwear for children aged 2-16. We understand that not everyone is in the position to donate, however if you could help spread the word within our community that would be just as helpful! **The blue donation bin is located outside 5/6J's classroom, opposite the staffroom in the main corridor.**

PJs, Socks,  
SINGlets &  
Jocks

make For

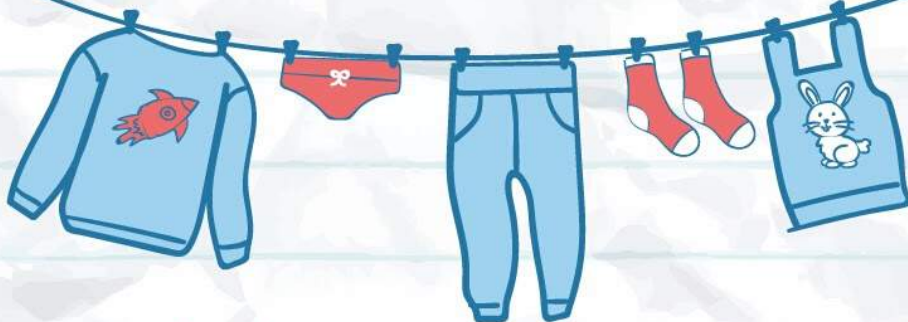
Warm & Happy  
KiDs & tots

### BIG GROUP HUG

wants to ensure we are able to give our kids new pyjamas, singlets, socks & underwear in all our donated packs of clothing.

### CAN YOU HELP?

Can you donate NEW items for boys and girls in sizes 2 to 16?



ReGister Now! at [biGGroupHuG.org](http://biGGroupHuG.org)

 @biGGroupHuG  biGGroupHuG

 [camPaiGns@biGGroupHuG.org](mailto:camPaiGns@biGGroupHuG.org)

Feb 14 - Mar 23

